

Film Annotation - "The Cove"

Sustainability Problems

1. Title, director and release year?
 - Louie Psihoyos directed "The Cove" it was released in 2009.
2. What is the central argument or narrative of the film?
 - Stop cruelty to dolphins in particular but also just to animals.
3. How is the argument or narrative made or sustained? How much scientific information is provided, for example? Does the film have emotional appeal?
 - The film primarily uses emotional appeal by showing the building of friend like relationships with dolphins while training them and then showing the aftermath of the stress on the animals. It also shows the cove in Japan where dolphins are regularly trapped and either sold live to aquariums or killed for meat.
4. What sustainability problem does the film draw out? Political? Legal? Economical? Technical? Media and Informational? Organizational? Educational? Behavioral? Cultural? Ecological?
 - This film focuses on the ecological effect of trapping and killing large numbers of dolphins.
5. What parts of the film did you find most persuasive and compelling? Why?
 - That such a place as the cove in Taiji, Japan exists and that in order to keep it secret they must surround it in barbed wire and guard it so heavily.
6. What parts of the film were you not compelled or convinced by? Why?
7. What audiences does this film best address? Why?
 - This film addresses anyone who cares for animals or perhaps even those who do not. It shows the cruelty to these animals and will make the viewer think twice about going to see these animals in captivity.
8. What could have been added to this film to enhance its environmental educational value?
 - Perhaps more of an ecological effect could be demonstrated rather than just the emotional side of individual dolphins. While this is a strong emotional appeal it does not give a strong sense of a bigger picture.
9. What kinds of action and points of intervention are suggested by this film? If the film itself does not suggest corrective action, describe actions that you can imagine being effective.
 - Not in the film but on their website they accept donations and ask for people to sign their petition to get this practice stopped. They also encourage people to get educated on the types of animals they are seeing in captivity and how they are obtained and treated.
10. What additional information has the film compelled you to seek out? (Provide at least two supporting references.)
 - Taiji has traditionally been a whaling town for centuries. It is their way of life and is all they know. While this does not excuse their despicable practices it helps to understand why they do it.

Bibliography:

Features -- The Cove. The History of Taiji. (n.d.). Retrieved May 7, 2014, from <http://www.japan-zone.com/features/the-cove/history-of-taiji1.shtml>